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# The Torrance Herald

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## BIG AREA, BEACH, JOIN TORRANCE

### Cramps and Frigid Water Take Torrance Men Out of Race

#### COLD SEA DEFEATS PAIR

Hyde Overcome by Cramps After Four-Mile Jaunt in Water

PAGE SWIMS FIVE MILES

Men and Committee Grateful to All Who Aided in Convoy Work

Torrance entries in William Wrigley's epic Catalina channel race made a good showing, but were compelled to leave the frigid water in the afternoon. Carl L. Hyde was taken aboard about 2:45 with a cramp that rendered his right arm useless. The cramp seized his arm about 2:30, but he did not report it to the men in the rowboat for fifteen minutes. During that length of time he swam with one arm and fought desperately to overcome the knot that bridged the interior of the elbow joint. When taken from the water Hyde was in excellent condition except for his cramped arm. He had not yet touched the cold and was neither hungry nor thirsty. Many Quit Earlier Prior to the time he was seized with the cramp many swimmers had left the race due to the chilly water. Rufus Page stayed in the water about three-quarters of an hour longer than Hyde. When taken aboard the rowboat and brought to the conveying launch he was chilled through. Hyde negotiated about four miles, while Page made about five miles. Neither swimmer suffered any after-effects from the swim. A week before the race Hyde was taken with a cramp in the right arm while training off Redondo Beach. It was the first time in his life that he ever had suffered a cramp. The arm that cramped, according to Hyde and members of his family, was subjected to a severe strain about Christmas time when Carl engaged a number of friends in a series of Japanese wrestling bouts.

Hyde disappointed When taken aboard the convoy Carl was bitterly disappointed. He was in excellent condition and fresh as a daisy. His condition indicated to all aboard that had it not been for the severe cramp he would have stayed in the water a long time. Page made a splendid showing in the race. He reported the water much colder than it is off Redondo Beach, and said that it ran in unusual warm and cold currents. When taken aboard the convoy, Carl Hyde said: "If I had been exhausted I wouldn't have cared, but I hated to leave the water with a cramp when I felt so fine otherwise. I wanted to go as far as I could."

Take All Precautions Every precaution for the safety and care of the swimmers was taken in preparations aboard the Torrance boat and skiffs. Had the swimmers continued in the water after dark, rescuers would have rowed the boats all night. One of these volunteers was John Holm of Lomita. Almost every person in the party was detailed to some duty, and all tasks were performed willingly and well. The Torrance rowboats were the only ones in the channel equipped (Continued on Last Page)

#### START SHEET STEEL PLANT

Ground was broken for the Columbia Steel Corporation's \$2,000,000 sheet mill in Torrance Monday morning.

D. H. Botchford, vice-president and general manager of the company, turned the first shovelful of earth. Other officials present were N. A. Becker, general superintendent, and W. L. Booth, manager of the Torrance plant.

#### Hi Five League Winner

Torrance Basketball Heavies Clinch Cup; Other Teams Here Do Well

Winning 11 league games out of 13 played this season, Torrance High School basketball teams are making a remarkable showing in the Marine circuit this season.

The heavyweight quintet has the league cup already clinched, having won every game so far. The heavies trounced Narbonne High last Friday by a score of 24 to 16, coming from behind to gain the victory. Sleppy and Von Hugen starred for Torrance.

The heavy team is as follows: Forwards, Sleppy (captain), Von Hugen; center, Ben Townsend; guards, Harry Phillips, Eustace Long.

The Torrance B quintet has won two and lost no games this year, and stands a chance to win the cup by defeating Wilmington Friday on the Wilmington court. This outfit beat the Lomita B team last week 11 to 6.

The C and D teams have each lost one game, but still can tie for first place by winning the remaining encounters. The C team beat Lomita last week 36 to 11, but the D team lost 9 to 6.

The A and B teams play at Wilmington Friday, and the C and D teams play Wilmington here Thursday afternoon.

The Marine League includes Torrance, Narbonne, Wilmington, Gardena, Watts, and Bell.

#### Would Erect Flat On Engracia Ave.

A. W. Monroe filed with the Board of Trustees Tuesday night formal notice that he intends to circulate a petition asking for the rezoning of a lot on Engracia avenue near the Women's Clubhouse and opposite the hospital so that it would be enabled to construct a four-family apartment house. At last week's meeting of the hospital board a resolution protesting the change of zone on the street was unanimously passed.

The trustees took no action pending receipt of the petition.

#### Cravens Setback Plan Rescinded

Having met with considerable opposition from property owners, the plan of the city trustees to establish a 10-foot setback line on Cravens avenue was abandoned last week and the Dominguez Land Corporation notified that they might erect their new office building up to the property line.

#### To Cut Down Dead Trees and Replant

All dead trees in Torrance will be gradually removed and new trees, probably flowering acacias, planted in their places. This policy was embodied in an order to the street department by motion passed at the Board of Trustees' meeting Tuesday night.

Many oak trees, particularly on Amundson and Cota avenues, are dead and will be removed.

#### GLASS CO. LIGHTS FIRES

Drying-Out Blazes Burn in Kilns at Local New Plant

PRODUCTION IS ASSURED

Plant Will Be Running With 250 Men in Few Weeks

Presaging early production at the Torrance Flat Glass factory, drying-out fires were lighted Monday in the kilns. This is the last step to be taken before operations are begun with 250 men working on three shifts.

The fires now blazing in the kilns will run for a month before the drying-out process is completed. Then when production starts the fires will be maintained constantly for several months.

Officials and executives at the glass plant are enthusiastic over the company's prospects for unobstructed production. The new machines are in excellent condition, all preliminary problems have been solved, and orders for the company's glass assure steady work for employees.

#### Birthday Will Be Observed By Kiwanis Here

Local Group Does Its Share in an International Program

The Torrance Kiwanis Club will join in with the 1635 other clubs of Kiwanis International in the United States and Canada to observe the twelfth anniversary of the organization's founding during Anniversary Week of January 16-22, with the announcement made by Charles C. Schultz, president of the local club, today.

"Our club's program will be under the direction of the committee on Kiwanis education, and will include several numbers that are to be featured by all the clubs throughout the United States and Canada," said President Schultz. "With the 100,000 Kiwanians celebrating the twelfth anniversary it is hoped that the general public will become better acquainted with Kiwanis' many achievements, accomplishments, and work during the past twelve years."

The first Kiwanis Club was organized in Detroit, and the first meeting was held on Jan. 21, 1915. The international organization therefore recognizes Jan. 21 as the authentic anniversary date.

Kiwanis International has had a remarkable growth. Its present number of clubs exceeds 1635 and have a total membership of approximately 100,000. Ralph A. Arriman of Scranton, Pa., is the international president, being elected at the tenth international convention in Montreal last June. The 1927 convention will be held in Memphis June 6-9. Two delegates from the local club will attend the annual session.

Dr. Ernest G. Bashor of Los Angeles will speak at the Kiwanis Club luncheon here Friday noon. The local club has taken an active part in Torrance community affairs, being particularly active in Boy Scouts work, in inducing citizens to vote on election days, and in promoting better business conditions and neighborly feeling in Torrance, according to an outline of Kiwanis activities compiled by Secretary George Steadman.

#### BUY NEW MOTORCYCLE

Motorcycle Officer Malin will soon be riding a new motorcycle. On motion of Trustee Inman the board Tuesday night authorized purchase of a new motorcycle at a price of \$250. Two hundred dollars will be allowed on the old machine.

#### TORRANCE OFFICIALS DENY REPORT OF CONFERENCES ON G. P. REFINERY PROPOSITION

Directors of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce and city officials today vehemently denied statements in a Los Angeles newspaper this morning that they had studied reported plans of the General Petroleum Corporation to erect a huge refinery in Torrance.

A representative of the General Petroleum company recently asked Carl Hyde of the Torrance Chamber if this city would have any objection to the location of a refinery in the northern part of the city on an 800 acre tract between Maple avenue and the extension of Arlington avenue. Mr. Hyde informed him that no answer could be given until the matter could be studied.

Since that conference Mr. Hyde informed the representative that there might be official objection to the project whereupon the agent of the company said that no definite steps would be taken until the matter was taken up exhaustively with the Chamber of Commerce and city trustees.

This morning the Los Angeles Examiner published a news story declaring that the General Petroleum Company is planning to purchase the tract at a price of \$2,500,000.

The article states, "Representatives of the General Petroleum Corporation have held several conferences recently with Torrance municipal officials and Chamber of Commerce heads, it was stated. At these meetings establishment of the refinery was studied."

The Chamber of Commerce directors and secretary and city officials declare positively that this statement is untrue.

Directors of the Chamber and city officials were meeting today to discuss the matter and appoint a committee to consult with the General Petroleum Corporation officials at once.

The tract proposed for the refinery was annexed to Torrance last year and is owned by the Dominguez Estates, a group not to be confused with the Dominguez Land Corporation.

#### Observations

The Channel Swim—A Picture of the Start—Agonies of the Contestants—The Tremendous epic in George Young's Victory

By W. HAROLD KINGSLEY

DAWN, clad in a veil of rose, "stood tiptoe on the mountain top." Gray hulls of motor launches with bones in their teeth scudded over the dark seas. Blue-eyed skippers, leather faced, with strong and bony hands, talked of currents, drifts, temperatures, and winds.

The watery stage was being prepared for the most dramatic athletic event in the history of human contest.

IN the harbor at the isthmus came the great democracy of the sea—sturdy tugs with black and oily hulls trim and isomous yachts with mahogany and brass and crews in well-pressed uniforms; strong, broad fishing boats exuding pungent odors of their trade; lithe grey revenue cutters manned by keen-eyed crews; the work and pleasure craft of the deep, peasants and blue-bloods of the sea.

ON shore. Like the craft that rolled lazily in the morning swell mingled the unusual throng attracted to the isthmus by the race. Broad swimmers like the tugs. Lithe swimmers like the white, sleek yachts. Wide-shouldered swimmers like the fishing boats. Short squat swimmers like the heavy craft.

Hubbub generally—and the strange democracy that prevails at a great athletic event. Rushing around and much business, but each one among the thousands seeming to know what he was about. Most of the official observers were men of the sea. Skippers, boat rowers, all smacked of the salt. Their eyes! One could not keep from looking into them. Why is it that there are no blue eyes in all the world like those of Neptune's children?

THE conveying craft lumber and glide, according to their varied guits, outward toward the open sea. The skiffs, loaded with hot refreshments for the swimmers, are rowed from shore. In a long line before the numbers nailed on posts more than 100 swimmers stand. Bodies glisten in the near-noon sun—yellow, black, and brown, with here and there the natural color of the skin. Some are nude, but it would take a person of vile mind to notice that.

A GUN sounds. The swimmers wade into the water. Some run in and plunge. Others walk and drop gently into the sea. The race is on.

Each swimmer strokes toward his boat, identified by the swimmer's number on the side. Skiffs seek swimmers—and finding their own man row slowly toward their convoys. The calm harbor is dotted everywhere with the heads of swimmers, behind which broad shoulders lift in rhythm, flashing above the shimmer of the sea. Tugs, yachts, fishing boats angle for position. Officials in speed boats and medical attendants in trig craft that flaunt red cross flags whisk over the water in and out between the swimmers and the many skiffs.

ALREADY some of the contestants are being lifted from the water. One is doubled up with cramps. Others unable to withstand the combination of excitement and the shock of the cold water give up.

MRS. LOTTIE SCHEMMEL sweeps by, swimming like something supernatural. Her arms and shoulders flash beneath the sun. She has covered two miles and a half in something more than 45 minutes.

The champions are singled out, swimming with beautiful precision and strength—the great Norman Ross stroking 50 to the minute—Summers, Purcell, shoulders shining, driving their powerful bodies through the water with a wonderful lack of waste motion. Some swimmers are alone, having failed to locate their convoys. Rowboats and official craft come alongside, ask if boats and swimmers of certain numbers have been seen. We tell them no and they move on.

Occasionally a whistle toots, as some convoy seeks to change the course of a swimmer.

#### To Cut Tax on Stores

Brooks Proposes 50 Percent Slash in Business Annual Impost

Reductions in business license taxes for Torrance were proposed by Trustee Brooks, chairman of the ordinance committee, Tuesday night.

Mr. Brooks' proposals include the following: Reduction of general license from \$6 to \$3 a quarter; reduction of dance hall license from \$50 to \$24 a year; increase of license for carnivals from \$3 to \$10 a day; reduction of theatre license from \$12.50 to \$6; \$50 deposit required of peddlers to remain the same and to be forfeited if peddlers do not take up permanent business location; reduction in general contractor's license from \$100 to \$50 a year; reduction of sub-contractor's license from \$25 to \$24 a year.

Mr. Brooks will shortly introduce an ordinance embodying most of the proposals.

#### Hospital Asks City Pay Bills In Emergencies

Request Municipality Guarantee When Police Bring In Injured

A request from the directors of the Torrance Hospital Association that the city pay for the treatment of persons injured on city streets and taken by the police to the Jared Sidney Torrance Memorial Hospital for emergency aid, had been presented to the Board of Trustees. The hospital never has refused emergency treatment to an injured person, but in many cases has received no payment. In many cities receiving hospitals for emergency cases are maintained by the municipalities, and in other cities it is common practice for the municipality to pay for emergency treatment when injured persons are brought in by the police. The matter was referred to Chief of Police Calder for investigation and report.

#### Annual Operetta At High School Set For Friday

'El Toroso' Will Be Presented in Afternoon and Evening

Presented in the colorful spirit of a Spanish fiesta, "El Toroso," the annual operetta of the Torrance Junior High School, will be given in the school auditorium Friday. There will be two performances, an afternoon program and one in the evening at 8 o'clock.

The costumes are being made in the school by the students themselves and are colorful and exotic. Musical and dramatic parts of the production are very effective. The prices are very reasonable, being 35 and 50 cents.

All those who see this musical comedy are assured of an evening of enjoyable entertainment. Tickets can be obtained at the high school.

#### Eastern Stars To Conduct Practice

All members of the Torrance chapter, Eastern Star, are invited to attend the officers' practice to be conducted tonight at Masonic Temple by District Deputy Angie Monroe of Inglewood.

A "golden hour" party will follow the next regular session, Thursday evening, Jan. 27. Everyone is assured a genuine good time at this unique affair, which will be conducted by the officers of the organization.

Everything in building materials. Consolidated Lumber Co.—Adv.

#### ANNEXING PROPOSAL CARRIES BY 6 VOTES

4000 Acres, Including 3/4 Mile of Ocean Frontage, Becomes Part of Torrance As Voters Ballot 27 to 20 Tuesday

AREA'S ASSESSED VALUATION IS TWO MILLION

Territory Now Paying Higher Taxes Than Those Prevailing in City Will Enjoy Lower Imposts in Torrance

Four thousand acres of land, including three-quarters of a mile of beach frontage on the Pacific, was annexed to the city of Torrance Tuesday when residents of the territory voted 27 to 20 in favor of consolidation.

Predictions of a close election were carried out. Forty-nine votes were cast, but two ballots were spoiled and thrown out. Five voters were challenged and did not cast ballots. Two were Mexicans unable to read English and three were men who lived outside the territory proposed for annexation and therefore unqualified to vote.

Campaigners Busy All day long proponents and opponents of the annexation proposition were busy setting out the vote. Officials of the Redondo Beach Chamber of Commerce were active in opposing the measure.

Charles Quandt led the group favoring annexation. He circulated the petition asking that an election be held, and in the pre-election campaign pleaded his cause successfully with his many friends in the territory.

The territory voted into Torrance has an assessed valuation of approximately \$2,000,000. Property owners in the area are now paying in taxes from 35 to 55 cents more per \$100 of assessed valuation than are property owners in Torrance. The differential is due to the high school tax rate in the Redondo Beach school district and the county road tax, which is not assessed against property in incorporated cities.

Under the state law the territory voted for annexation to Torrance Tuesday will automatically become part of the Los Angeles school district.

The area voted for consolidation includes the large Weston and Ellinwood ranches and territory west of Pennsylvania avenue in Lomita, does not include Walteria, but takes in the Huntington-Redondo Company ocean frontage land between the Palos Verdes Estates and Redondo Beach.

Torrance city officials said Tuesday night that in the development of the territory the city will follow the desires of land owners in matters of zoning.

Co-operation with the proponents of annexation was provided by Carl L. Hyde, secretary, and Rufus Page, director, of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce.

With the addition of 4000 acres by Tuesday's election, the incorporated area of Torrance now comprises almost 8000 acres.

The Board of Trustees will canvass the vote at their meeting of Feb. 1, and the official papers will be sent to the secretary of state at Sacramento. As soon as he certifies to the election the territory will become officially a part of Torrance.

#### Trustees Revoke Action on Madrid Avenue Dwellings

Upon representations that protests of adjoining property owners had been withdrawn, the Board of Trustees Tuesday night rescinded their previous action in revoking the permit under which the two small houses were moved on a lot on Madrid avenue behind Amapola avenue. The owner of the houses declared that all city ordinances would be complied with.

Mr. and Mrs. Park Hyde of Los Angeles spent Sunday with Mr. Hyde's mother, Mrs. Luthy A. Hyde.

#### Plan 600-Mile-an-Hour Speed

A new airship model made its advent in Los Angeles recently, which, it is thought by the inventor, H. C. Berry, and a host of aeronautical engineers, may revolutionize commercial flying by the new blower system involved. It is thought that by the appliance of the blower system the elimination of air resistance has been accomplished, thereby solving one of the world's most intricate aeronautical problems. It is further believed by the inventor that the blower system converts the air resistance into forward energy by displacement of the air, enabling the ship to proceed with high speed in the teeth of any high winds. The inventor claims a speed of 600 miles per hour can be attained.

The picture shows H. C. Berry with two models of his airship.

**BILL THE BARBER SAYS**

Some people are so close, they won't even entertain other peoples' opinions.

